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worst pages of Carlyle. It is neither dignified, harmonious, nor idiomatic, and is thickly strewn with vituperative epithets. Mr. Chadwick is a strong partisan, always ready to engage in the discussion of side issues, however remotely connected with his immediate subject; and his readers are frequently treated with a tirade aimed at some party or individual of the present day. He never looks at historical events and personages through a colorless medium, but always under the influence of a strong bias. It should, however, be added, that he has studied his theme with much thoroughness. He has burrowed with the zest of an antiquary among the forgotten pamphlets of the age of William, and has given us very copious extracts from them. Indeed, a large part of his volume is composed of these *dissecta membra*. But much more is needed in the biographer of De Foe than the widest acquaintance with this rubbish. He should have the ability to condense into a few rapid and weighty sentences the substance of an entire pamphlet, to seize at a glance the important points in a controversy, and to bring vividly before the imagination of the reader the very men who wrote and struggled, with every accessory of time and place. In a word, he should give us results in clear, compact, and polished narrative and statement; and it is precisely here that Mr. Chadwick fails.

5.—*A Decade of Italian Women*. By T. ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE, Author of "The Girlhood of Catherine de' Medici." London: Chapman and Hall. 1859. 2 vols. 12mo. pp. xv. and 410, 451.

FROM the Preface to these volumes, we should infer that a principal design in their preparation was to illustrate certain phases of the much-vexed question respecting the education and position of woman, considered with reference to her social and intellectual influence. But with this exception, they contain only the slightest allusion to the subject. The work is to be considered as a contribution to biographical literature exhibiting only that degree of unity which is suggested by the title-page, rather than as a series of Lives written to recommend any special theory. It is true that most of the women whom the author has thus brought under our notice lived in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; but their positions in life were very various, and they had little in common save their birth in Italy and their nearly contemporaneous appearance. The most distinguished of the ten are St. Catherine of Siena, Catherine Sforza, Vittoria Colonna, Olympia Morata, Bianca Cappello, and Olympia Pamfili; and this enumeration is sufficient to show how wide a range of subjects Mr. Trollope has treated. His

knowledge of his subject is always minute and comprehensive, though we may not be always ready to accept his conclusions. Intellectual force is certainly not one of his most striking characteristics; and neither in dealing with the general history of the period nor in delineating particular characters does he exhibit a very high degree of skill. His style lacks grace, dignity, and purity, and we frequently meet with words which would have been rejected by any writer who seeks only to clothe his thoughts in clear and forcible language. Still the volumes contain much that will be new even to those most familiar with Italian history and literature. They are well printed, have a tolerably good Index, and are enriched with portraits of Vittoria Colonna and Bianca Cappello.

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6. — *The Life of Frederick William von Steuben, Major-General in the Revolutionary Army.* By FRIEDRICH KAPP. With an Introduction by GEORGE BANCROFT. New York: Mason Brothers. 1859. 12mo. pp. 735.

AMONG the French and German soldiers who rendered important and memorable service in the struggle for American independence, Baron Steuben holds an honorable place. He was one of the first to tender assistance to the oppressed colonists. During the war he was zealous and efficient in his peculiar line of duty; and when the final victory was achieved, he determined to fix his abode here, and to associate his own fortunes with those of the nation he had helped to found. Born at Magdeburg in Prussia, in November, 1730, he entered the army at an early age, and served with credit in the Seven Years' War. At the close of the war he left the Prussian service, and spent some time in travelling, apparently undecided what career to adopt. But in 1777 overtures were made to him with a view of securing his services in the war between the American Colonies and Great Britain, and in the latter part of the year he came to this country. His tender of service was accepted by Congress, and he at once joined the army at Valley Forge. Soon after his arrival in camp, he was appointed Inspector-General, a position which he occasionally exchanged for the more active duties of the field; and he successively served in Rhode Island, and in Virginia, where he held the chief command for a short time. Though he was not a successful general in the field, his services in organizing and disciplining the army were of the greatest value, and his courage was undoubted. He was not, it is true, a popular officer, and while he was at the head of the troops in Virginia he failed to accomplish the results which had been anticipated from his ability and